

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 074697
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TO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 074697

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, CY, US

SUBJ: PRESIDENT CARTER'S REPLY TO PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU'S
LETTER

REF: NICOSIA 565

EMBASSY SHOULD DELIVER TEXT OF FOLLOWING LETTER FROM
PRESIDENT CARTER TO PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
SIGNED ORIGINAL HAS BEEN POUCHED. LETTER DATED MARCH 21.

BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF MARCH 2
ABOUT RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND THE PROSPECTS
FOR A SETTLEMENT ON CYPRUS. I FULLY SHARE YOUR DESIRE TO
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MAINTAIN THE CLOSE AND COOPERATIVE TIES THAT WE LONG HAVE
ENJOYED. AS YOU KNOW, I DEEPLY BELIEVE THAT A JUST AND
LASTING CYPRUS SETTLEMENT IS IN THE INTEREST NOT ONLY OF THE
PEOPLES OF THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, BUT OF THE WORLD AT
LARGE.

FROM THE START OF MY ADMINISTRATION, I HAVE TRIED TO PROMOTE

SUCH A SOLUTION THROUGH THE INTERCOMMUNAL NEGOTIATIONS CONDUCTED UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM'S AUSPICES. THAT

COMMITMENT WAS ALSO DEMONSTRATED BY THE MISSION THAT FORMER SECRETARY CLARK CLIFFORD UNDERTOOK AT MY REQUEST IN FEBRUARY 1977; IN THE NUMEROUS MEETINGS THAT SECRETARY VANCE HAS HELD OVER THE PAST YEAR WITH HIS GREEK, TURKISH, AND CYPRIOT COUNTERPARTS AND WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND OTHER U.N. OFFICIALS; AND IN THE CONSTANT DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS THAT WE HAVE MADE, IN PUBLIC AND IN PRIVATE, TO ENCOURAGE MEANINGFUL AND PRODUCTIVE NEGOTIATIONS. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THESE EFFORTS WILL CONTINUE. AT THE SAME TIME, I WOULD HOPE THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANY OPPORTUNITY THAT MIGHT ARISE TO ENGAGE IN NEGOTIATIONS ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM.

YOU ASK WHETHER CURRENT U.S. RESTRICTIONS ON ARMS SALES AND ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY MIGHT SOON BE LIFTED. AS I AM SURE YOU RECOGNIZE, THE UNITED STATES HAS A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT INTERESTS IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN; AMONG THESE ARE THE MAINTENANCE OF A STRONG SOUTHERN FLANK OF NATO AND THE STRENGTHENING OF RELATIONS WITH ALL NATIONS IN THE AREA. I ASSURE YOU THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL FULLY CONSIDER ALL RELEVANT FACTORS BEFORE WE MAKE A DECISION ABOUT OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMITMENTS IN THE AREA. ONE OF THESE FACTORS WILL BE THE COURSE OF EVENTS

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IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.

AS YOU HAVE NOTED, THE ADVANCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS WORLDWIDE IS A FUNDAMENTAL FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVE OF MY ADMINISTRATION. IT APPLIES TO CYPRUS AS MUCH AS TO ANY OTHER COUNTRY. THE DEPTH OF U.S. COMMITMENT IS CLEAR FROM THE SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS THAT WE HAVE MADE SINCE 1974 TO THE RELIEF AND REHABILITATION OF DISPLACED PERSONS ON CYPRUS, FROM OUR SUPPORT FOR UNFICYP, FROM THE INTENSE DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS THAT WE HAVE DEVOTED IN RECENT MONTHS TO ENCOURAGING FORMATION OF A COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE CASES OF MISSING PERSONS ON THE ISLAND, AND ABOVE ALL FROM THE CONTINUING EFFORT TO PROMOTE AN OVERALL CYPRUS SETTLEMENT. IN ALL THESE ENDEAVORS WE HAVE BEEN MOTIVATED BY DEEP HUMANITARIAN CONCERN.

I SHARE WITH YOU THE HOPE THAT NORMAL RELATIONS BETWEEN YOUR GOVERNMENT AND EGYPT WILL SOON BE RE-ESTABLISHED, AND I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT, AS APPROPRIATE OCCASIONS ARISE, WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO HELP YOU BOTH HEAL THE BREACH.

I APPRECIATE YOUR READINESS TO MEET WIT; ME TO DISCUSS
HOW RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES COULD BE FURTHER
IMPROVED, AND I AM SURE YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THAT MY
SCHEDULE PRECLUDES A DIRECT MEETING IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

AT THE SAME TIME OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS SHOULD ENGAGE IN THE
FULLEST POSSIBLE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS IN THE IMPORTANT PERIOD
THAT LIES AHEAD. SECRETARY VANCE HAS TOLD ME THAT HE
SPOKE WITH YOU BY TELEPHONE ON FEBRUARY 26 AND WAS ABLE
TO CLEAR UP CERTAIN MISUNDERSTANDINGS THAT HAD ARISEN. I
KNOW THAT OFFICIALS OF MY GOVERNMENT WILL BE IN FREQUENT
CONTACT WITH AMBASSADOR DIMITRIOU; AND I HOPE THAT YOUR
GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO TURN TO AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD
--AND HIS SUCCESSOR AMBASSADOR STONE--TO CONVEY TO US
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YOUR CONCERNS AND SUGGESTIONS AND TO SEEK INFORMATION AND
ADVICE.

WITH BEST REGARDS, SINCERELY, JIMMY CARTER. END TEXT.
VANCE

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